

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

PRESENT: Daniel Trabucco (Chair), Steve Ciciotti (Vice Chair), Tracy Marino (Clerk), John G. Brown, Jr., (Selectman), Richard Flynn (Selectman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Jason Viveiros (Fire Chief), Bob Kenney (Advisory), Sandy Beaton (Advisory), Vince Cogliano, and others.

At 7:00 pm Mr. Trabucco opened the meeting by reading the Chairman's statement.

7:00 TOWN MANAGER'S FY2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Chenard reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget. He noted that over the next several months, each department's budget would be reviewed in depth in front of the board. He stated that the FY25 budget was a 3.63% change from the FY24 budget, with a State Aid increase of 1.10%. He noted that new growth estimates were declining due to costs in starting new development and construction projects. He reviewed the different components of the budget including the tax levy, new growth, debt exclusions, State Aid, local receipts, excise, and meals tax, as well as other available funds. He then reviewed annual expenses for departments as well as the stabilization fund balances. Finally, he reviewed the upcoming budget schedule through requesting approval at the Town Meeting in May. Discussion ensued between Mr. Chenard, the board, and members of the Advisory Committee. Mr. Chenard stated that department heads would be present at future meetings to discuss each line item respective to their departments in detail. Mr. Vince Cogliano discussed a DPW facility and the status of the public safety building with Mr. Chenard.

BOARD ACTION: REVIEW ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES AS SUBMITTED, VOTE INCLUSION OR REMOVAL

Mr. Chenard briefly summarized the warrant articles for the annual warrant as well as the articles submitted for the special town meeting warrant. Mr. Ciciotti moved to include article one, the wage and classification plan, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino moved to include article two, the operating budget, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Brown moved to include article three, the water enterprise operating budget, seconded by Mr. Flynn, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn moved to include article four, the solid waste enterprise budget, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn moved to include article five, the capital budget, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino moved to include article 6, trust fund transfers, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Brown moved to include article seven, community preservation allocations, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino moved to include article eight, revolving fund limits, seconded by Mr. Brown, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ciciotti moved to include article nine, collective bargaining agreements, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Brown moved to include the home rule petition at the former Christmas Tree Shops for an all-alcohol package store license, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ciciotti moved to include the second home rule petition, an all-alcohol package store license for South Shore Market, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn made a motion to hold an amendment to the sex offender bylaw, pending further review by town counsel, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn made a motion to include the bylaw amendment to change the polling hours of the local election, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn made a motion to include a bylaw amendment to change dog licensing deadlines, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino made a motion to include a bylaw amendment to include a new fire department article, seconded by Mr. Brown, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ciciotti made a motion to include a bylaw amendment to add a new article for the Affordable Housing Trust, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn made a motion to include a bylaw amendment to update the membership of the Community Preservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flynn made a motion to include an article to create lieutenants within the Fire Department, seconded by Mr. Brown, Mr. Trabucco stated that there was discussion. Chief Viveiros spoke regarding the article, he stated that in the future there would be a two-station model and that the article would add four lieutenants based on exams already taken, to have more supervision within the department on scene at emergencies. He stated that the funding would come from the ambulance fund. Mr. Chenard stated

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that he did not believe FY25 was the appropriate time to make these promotions given the budget challenges already facing the year. He stated that he was in favor of the article but not at the current time. Mr. Trabucco discussed waiting until the fall town meeting to propose the article but stated that the residents at the town meeting should decide whether it is fiscally responsible. Discussion ensued between the board members, Mr. Chenard, and Chief Viveiros. Mr. Kenney from Advisory and the Fire Chief discussed the role of the proposed positions. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino made a motion to include proposed community preservation projects, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino moved to include the article to accept town reports, seconded by Mr. Brown, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino made a motion to include article sixteen, the annual town election, seconded by Mr. Brown, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ciciotti made a motion to include the first article of the special town meeting warrant, departmental transfers, seconded by Ms. Marino, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino made a motion to include article two of the special town meeting warrant, fund collective bargaining agreements, seconded by Mr. Brown, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marino made a motion to include article three of the special town meeting warrant, a citizen's petition, seconded by Mr. Ciciotti, the motion passed unanimously.

LIAISON UPDATE

Mr. Ciciotti reminded the public that the Master Plan public forum would occur on February 29 at 6pm at the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Governor's Local Earmark Cuts (\$1.68M) Affecting Fire Department: Mr. Trabucco stated that he would like to send a letter to the Governor expressing dissatisfaction with her budget priorities. Discussion ensued between the board members regarding sending a letter from Pembroke and reaching out to other towns to send a letter with support from surrounding communities. Mr. Ciciotti stated that he would like to see the letter before committing to signing. Ms. Marino agreed with Mr. Ciciotti's position. Mr. Flynn stated that he agreed in the letter and would like to see the language, and then forward to other towns. Mr. Brown was amenable to signing a letter pending language as well. Mr. Trabucco stated that he would draft a letter and send it to board members for comments.

Denial of Special Election for 6th Plymouth District House Vacancy: Discussion ensued regarding the special election that would not take place and leave Pembroke with a vacant representative seat until the November election. Mr. Trabucco would like to write a letter expressing the dissatisfaction of not having a special election. Mr. Brown stated other Plymouth County representatives had offered to help Pembroke while there was a lack of representation. Mr. Chenard suggested asking the House how the Town of Pembroke can be represented with the vacancy. Ms. Marino stated that she would be in favor of signed a letter dependent on language. Ms. Marino offered to be a liaison to other towns for help with representation. Board members agreed to Ms. Marino acting as liaison. Mr. Ciciotti asked for there to be a comparison of what gets paid to the state versus what the state gives back to the town. Mr. Chenard stated that the information relevant to that is not readily available. Mr. Ciciotti asked for a conservative estimate, Mr. Chenard stated that he could provide that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chenard discussed recycling and residents diligently watching what they are putting into their recycling barrels as the town would be participating in an audit at the Waste Management facility. He stated that audits directly affect the cost of recycling. Mr. Flynn asked to invite Rep. LaNatra in for an update.

Mr. Trabucco read the upcoming issues. At 9:12pm, Mr. Ciciotti moved to adjourn, Ms. Marino seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

FY25 Budget Presentation (TM Office), Draft Warrant (TM Office)